

COMMUNITY NEWS



New Brockton High School seniors paid a visit to Enterprise-Ozark Community College recently where they learned all about being admitted to college, registering for classes, applying for financial aid, selecting a major, attending classes, and joining college clubs and organizations. The EOCC Mentors, the College's official hosts, assisted students with questions and decisions and took the seniors on a tour of the Enterprise Campus.

NOTICE FOR REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICE HOLDERS AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

The Coffee County Republican Committee is now qualifying candidates for county offices. Current office holders up for re-election, or someone desiring to run for office on the Republican ticket, should contact The Coffee County Republican Committee chairman, Don Weaver, at 334-393-5980 or 334-477-3778. The qualifying deadline is, midnight on April the 4th.



Williams family moves to Geneva

Douglas and Glenda Williams, and Eulala Williams, moved to Geneva, AL to work with the Maple Ave. Church of Christ on January 3, 2008. After 17 years with the Gridertown Church of Christ, Opp, AL and working at Williams Signs, Inc. over 20 years each, the Williams went back into full time work with the church. They now reside at 605 W. Camellia Ave., Geneva, AL 36540. Telephone them at 334-684-7777.

Kinston students participate in Job Shadowing program

On Friday, Feb. 1, the eighth graders from Kinston High School participated in the Job Shadowing program in conjunction with Groundhog Day.

Students accompanied their parent/guardian or other adult to work to see first hand how the skills they learn in school are put into action in the workplace. Through this activity the students can see how characteristics such as manners, courtesy, punctuality, dependability, and teamwork are as important in the workplace as hard work and technical skills. Participating in the program is a win-win situation for the employers and students involved.

Employers are able to share with the students what will be expected of them in the workplace and the students are able to experience first hand what a day in the 'real world' has to offer. Job shadowing is often an eye opening experience for all students.

Kinston High School would like to express appreciation for all of the employers that were willing to provide this opportunity for the students.

ATTEND A
CHURCH OF
YOUR
CHOICE THIS
SUNDAY!

Regional peanut production meetings underway

The 2008 Alabama Regional Peanut production meetings, which began Jan., will continue with five more meetings scheduled throughout the state's peanut-producing areas.

Upcoming meetings include: Feb. 11, 6 p.m. in Robertsdale;

Feb. 12, 10 a.m., in Monroeville; Feb. 25, 6 p.m., at the New Brockton Farm Center Community Room; Feb. 26, 6 p.m., in the Harrison Room of the Troy University campus in Dothan; and Feb. 28, 6 p.m., at the Pike County Economic

Development Office on Highway 231 in Troy. A meal will be served at each of the meetings.

Scheduled speakers include: Randy Griggs of the Alabama Peanut Producers Association on the farm bill and industry issues; Marshall Lamb and Wilson Faircloth of the National Peanut Research Laboratory on marketing and economics; and Kris Balkcom, Austin Hagan and Ron Weeks of Auburn University's Wiregrass Research and Extension Center on production updates and issues.

For more information about the production meetings, contact your nearest county

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celebrates his
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INSIDE

Book donated to
NBHS library in
memory of
Katie Strunk



INSIDE

Brantley Lady
Bulldogs win area
tournament



The Elba Clipper

Volume 111, Number 36

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 14, 2008

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Officials arrest three suspects in connection to recent burglary cases in northern Coffee County

Officials with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department recently reported the arrest of three suspects in connection with a rash of burglaries in northern Coffee County.

The burglaries occurred from mid-January through late-January.

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, officials with the sheriff's department responded to two separate burglaries of residences on Alabama Highway 87 North in the Zion Chapel community. According to Coffee County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy R.W. Whitworth, the victims reportedly arrived home to find that someone had attempted to pry the doors to gain entry into the homes. Being unsuccessful, he said the offender(s) then kicked in the door to gain entry.

Once inside each residence, Whitworth said the suspect(s) took items such as jewelry, computers, televisions and guns.

The following day, Wednesday, Jan. 16, Coffee County officials responded to a residence just north of Elba on County Road 364 (Taylor Mill Road). Here, they found evi-

dence of another burglary with similar circumstances of entry as the two burglaries reported on the 15th.

Again, Whitworth said the suspect(s) took jewelry, guns, televisions and clothing.

On Friday, Jan. 25, the Coffee County Sheriff's Department received a report of another burglary on Hwy. 87 North. Whitworth said the similar circumstances were again evident with a lap top computer being taken from the residence.

After the burglaries, Whitworth said the sheriff's department began receiving information from local citizens in the area of the reported burglaries. He said officials compiled the information and released a BOLO for a vehicle fitting the description of one that had been seen in the areas. Officials soon discovered that other surrounding counties also had similar burglaries cases possibly involving the same type vehicle.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department stopped a vehicle matching the BOLO released by Coffee County on Friday, Jan. 25. Whitworth said

numerous items were retrieved at this time and identified by the victims in the Coffee County burglaries.

Montgomery County officials arrested Eddie Tyrone Jones, age 30, of South Union Street, Montgomery; Antonio Jermaine Timmons, age 23, of Edwards Lane, Montgomery; and Montorio L. Timmons, age 18, of North Smiley County, Montgomery. The suspects also face pending charges from the surrounding counties and Georgia.

Whitworth said Coffee County officials continue to investigate other burglaries in the county that may have been committed by these individuals.

He added that the department is thankful to the citizens of Coffee County for information that was reported during these investigations. Whitworth said the information played a big role in the apprehension of the suspects.

Anyone with information regarding any criminal activity is encouraged to contact the Coffee County Sheriff's Department at (334) 894-5535.

Elba's Kristin Kelley will travel overseas in June

Student excited to participate in People To People program

by Brian Blair, Staff Writer

Most people have dreams of taking a trip overseas to observe other cultures, and this June, one lucky Elba High School student will get to live out that dream.

Kristin Kelley, a 15-year-old freshman at Elba High School will take part in the People To People Student Ambassador Program and will travel to Europe on what her mother, Dolly Kelley, refers to as the "trip of a lifetime."

In order to be selected, a student must be nominated by a teacher or a peer. Kristin's nomination was anonymous.

She received an invitation letter from the program in July 2007. After she registered in September, she attended a meeting in Mobile, Ala. along with

several other students also wanting the opportunity.

Kristin said it was there when she learned that only six students would be selected to "venture abroad."

After the initial meeting, Kristin went to an interview in Daphne, Ala. While in the interview, she was asked why she wanted to participate in the program. Her response included many reasons such as her desire to travel overseas to experience other cultures, to learn about their religion, and day-to-day life.

Kristin said after the interview she was very anxious and awaited the call to inform her whether or not she was selected. As luck would have it, she only had to wait one day. It was then that a group leader from People To People informed Kristin that



Kristin Kelley

she had in fact been selected.

The People To People Student Ambassador Program was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. Eisenhower started the program under his strong belief that

"peaceful relations between nations require mutual respect between individuals."

President Eisenhower believed if people understood other cultures then they would respect that culture, and through this there would be more peace.

The trip, however, must be paid for by a tuition fee of \$6,500 plus spending money.

Since being chosen for the trip, Kristin and her family have raised \$3,000 through bake sales, quilt raffles, and various other fundraising projects. Just recently, Kristin spoke with the Elba Rotary Club, which reportedly pledged \$500 towards the cost of the trip.

The total tuition for the trip is due by Tuesday, April 1, and in the coming weeks, Kristin will be mailing letters detailing the trip to various businesses and civic groups in hopes of receiving additional pledges from the community.

When asked about the trip and her views of it, Kristin replied, "I am looking forward to the trip to Europe and I feel honored to be selected."

Kristin is very excited about the June adventure and would like to let everyone in Elba know that she hopes to represent the city and school well during her stay in Europe.

The trip lasts 20 days and will carry her to London, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



HICKORY PIT RETURNS TO ELBA... A familiar name returned to Elba recently when The Hickory Pit opened in the building formerly home to Kelly's Bar-B-Que in Elba. Located at 804 W. Davis Street in Elba, the "new" Hickory Pit opened for business a couple of months ago. However, last Friday, Feb. 8, the Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the restaurant to business by holding a ribbon cutting ceremony. While good 'ole barbecue remains the featured item on the menu, The Hickory Pit offers a diverse menu for guests, as well as a lunch buffet during the week. Those present for last Friday's ribbon cutting ceremony included (from left to right): Little Miss Elba Kayla Seay, Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Eva Medlock, Rene Lambert, Barry Giles, Doris Matthews, Elba Mayor James Grimes, O'neal Davis, Kathy Davis - owner, Sonya Dodd, Eddie Vaughan, Reanne Day, Ginger Cain, Leanna Winters, Denise Lancaster and Future Little Miss Elba Makayla Polk.

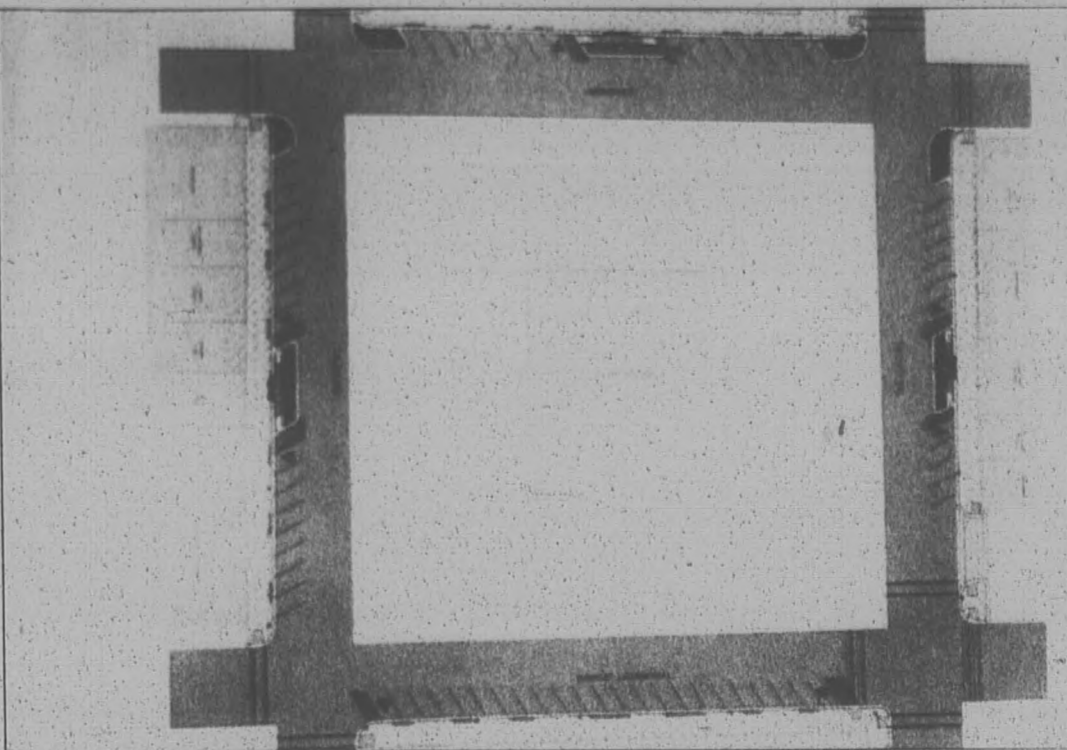


Illustration for Phase I of the downtown sidewalk project in Elba

Elba City Council awards bid for downtown sidewalk project

by Fernin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council moved a step closer to beginning the long awaited downtown sidewalk improvement project Monday evening with the awarding of a construction contract.

Low bidder on the project was MBC Southeast, Inc. out of Auburn. The company's bid was \$394,371.50, and the project is to be completed within 120 days.

Included in this phase of the project are the sidewalks on all four sides of the courthouse square. The above picture shows the area included. It shows the "green" areas that will hold plants or small shrubs. Each side of the square will include two handicapped reserved parking places and multiple handicapped access ramps have been included in the plans.

Phase II of the sidewalk project is expected to get underway later this year. It will extend the improved sidewalks in several directions from the square area.

Council members also approved a resolution authorizing Mayor James Grimes to enter into agreement with The Peoples Bank of Coffee County to finance two

new police cars. The loan will be for \$41,594 and will be for a period of 36 months.

A review of the city's financial statement by Grimes for the council members showed income for the first three months of the fiscal year (October thru December) was some \$30,000 higher than expected. A detailed review of the finances indicated this higher income was largely due to one time payments, included some grant funds.

Expenses were also above budgeted predictions in several areas, but overall were below budget. Departments over budget include police, street department, sanitation department, and capital expenditures. Grimes explained the sanitation department overages included higher than expected landfill fees. Capital expenditures were

Please See CITY, Page 7

Flu in Coffee County

ADPH reports increased influenza activity

The Alabama Department of Public Health reports that influenza activity has been confirmed recently in several Alabama counties, including Coffee, DeKalb, Elmore, Greene, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Tuscaloosa.

Overall, there has been an increase in influenza activity throughout the state over the past four weeks.

Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, said, "The incidence of influenza disease in Alabama usually peaks in the months of January and February, just as it does nationally. For protection during the remainder of the flu season, people should consider being vaccinated. Many providers still

have flu vaccine available in their clinics."

Please contact a private physician or the local county health department for availability of flu vaccine and clinic times. Also, be aware there are medications a doctor can prescribe to treat or prevent influenza.

Other information is available by visiting www.adph.org/influenza.

Influenza can occur any time between November and March. The strains of influenza confirmed were primarily type A/H3 and type A/H1.

The Health Department urges citizens to protect themselves and others by washing hands, covering their cough, and avoiding others when sick.

Area Happenings

THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON OFFICES will be closed Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents' Day.

THE COFFEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m., at Po-Pops Restaurant in Enterprise. The program will be given by John Martin from Dothan, a candidate for U.S. Congress District Two. For information call Sue Neuwen at 347-0511.



Rep. Terry Spicer

said Spicer.

When a toll road is built and paid for, the state has the option to take control of the road. The state would then be able to remove the toll or continue it.

"The way it is set up is for investors to come in and pay to build the road, set the toll, and when the road is paid for, the state takes it over," said Spicer.

"This bill wouldn't have passed without the Speaker's leadership. He set up the initial Commission on Infrastructure, which has worked over the past couple of years to address critical transportation issues," said Spicer.

SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Erica Daniels &
Kelly Corder

Elba elementary and high school both preparing for SACS review process

Submitted by Lynn Baker

Elba City Schools is currently participating in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process. Qualifying Assurance Review teams are scheduled to visit both the elementary and high school campuses Feb. 20 and 21. The review team will study the data collected by each school in order to determine the school's adherence to advanced quality standards. Faculty, staff, students and community stakeholders have spent much time in meaningful discussion, observation and interaction around the school's demonstration of the standards in practice. Standards

studied include improvement in student performance and school effectiveness as well as implementing research-based curriculum and instructional methods that facilitate achievements for all students. Every effort has been made to ensure the resources and service are in place and available to support the school's vision and purpose and to safeguard achievement for all students. Policies and procedures have been established, communicated, implemented and reviewed to provide for the effective operation of the schools.

This process is instrumental Elba City Schools' effort to ensure that excellence remains at the forefront of all aspects of instruction and student learning.



Annual Band Dance held at EHS

by Erica Daniels

On Saturday, Feb. 2, the annual Band Dance was held at Elba High School. This year's theme was "Enchanted Night." The seniors and their dates walked out through the traditional leadout. It was a great success for those who attended. Students had a number of opinions on the dance.

Brittany Davis said, "It was fun but could have been better." Karen Huckabaw replied, "It was alright but nicely decorated." Megan Sullivan added, "I enjoyed the dance, and the decorations were very pretty." A big thank you is extended to the Band Boosters for the beautifully decorated dance.

Elba falls to Opp on the court

by Brittany Davis

On Friday, Feb. 1, the Opp Bobcats traveled to Tiger Country to battle the Elba Tigers in basketball. All three Tiger teams fought hard but did not prevail.

The high scorer for the Elba Varsity boys was Keenan Phillips, #11, with a total of 8 points. The team stayed in the game; but sadly, at the end they ended their regular season with a loss.

The second game of the night featured the Elba Lady Tigers and the Opp Lady Bobcats. The Lady Tigers scored their first points during the second quarter of the game.

When the buzzer finally rang at the end of the game, the Elba Lady Tigers finished with a score of 25, and the Opp Bobcats finished with a score of 47.

Keke Oliver, #42, was the high scorer of the night, with a total of 13 points. The entire game seemed like a catfight with the Bobcats becoming the winner.

During the last game of the

night, the Opp Bobcats defeated the Tigers once again. The Elba Varsity boys ended the night with a score of 31, and the Opp Varsity boys ended the night with a score of 43.

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During the last game of the

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Annual Miss Elbala pageants held at Elba High School

by Kelly Corder

On Saturday, Jan. 26, the Elba High School Journalism staff hosted the annual Miss Elbala Pageant.

The pageant is held every year to help raise money to fund the yearbook. This year's Elbala theme was, "Queens in Disguise" and 54 contestants, grades K through 12th, participated.

Serving as mistress and master of ceremonies for the event were seniors Yoquesha Terry and Ashton Rodriguez. The night's entertainment was provided by current Elba High School students.

The Mini Miss Elbala competition involved several young ladies in grades K-3rd. The winner of this category was Peyton Chandler. 1st runner-up was Kayla Seay, and 2nd runner-up was Chantyn Free.

During the first intermission, Yoquesha Terry and Alexis Hocutt, known as "God's Chosen Ones" performed a religious mime to "My Hands."

The Little Miss Elbala competition involved 15 young ladies in grades 4th-6th. The winner in this category was Caitlyn Bradshaw. Elizabeth English was named 1st runner-up, and Cammie McCollough was named 2nd runner-up.

The Junior Miss Elbala com-

petition involved nine young ladies in grades 7th-9th. The winner of this category was Aaliyah Horstead. 1st runner up was Megan Concanon. 2nd runner up was Brinley Williams and Miss Congeniality was Tiffany Bradshaw.

During the final intermission, senior Dancesha Jordan sang a moving solo, "Hero."

The Miss Elbala competition involved 17 young ladies in grades 10th-12th. LeAnna Henderson was crowned Miss Elbala while Taylor Creel was named 1st runner-up and Ashley Bailey was named 2nd runner-up. Karen Huckabaw was named Miss Congeniality.

This year, the Elbala staff added a new group to the pageant - calendar girls. These girls included: Miss January - Marrita Levens; Miss February - Keri Jones; Miss March - Chessie Cross; Miss April - Ashley Carpenter; Miss May - Kayla Rials; Miss June - Emily Miller; Miss July - Maisie Thomas; Miss August - Brittany Whitehead; Miss September - Karen Huckabaw; Miss October - Meagan Anderson; Miss November - Ashley Bailey; and Miss December - Taylor Creel.

The Elbala staff congratulates all winners and thanks everyone who attended and made this a great success.



Miss Elbala winners



Junior Miss Elbala winners



Miss Elbala and the Calendar Girls

Elba High School's Senior Beta Club inducts 20 new members

by Maisie Thomas

On the night of Tuesday, Feb. 5, Elba High School's Senior Beta members inducted 20 new members. Ashley Terry (historian) and Meredith Brunson (historian), all spoke of four special keys to unlocking the doors of life.

Club president Trey Martin welcomed the senior beta members' families. This was followed by the invocation and pledge given by Tatiana Parker and vice president Ashley Carpenter. Ashley then spoke about the meaning of being a Senior Beta member.

Maisie Thomas discussed the local activities the senior high members were involved in the past two years. These activities included: ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, hosting the annual faculty/senior basketball game for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, helping build Elba's new playground and leading the Elba High School

student body with a characteristic trait, quote, and pledge. Other officers, Brittany Phillips (secretary), Cordell Hooks (treasurer), Yoquesha Terry (historian) and Meredith Brunson (historian), all spoke of four special keys to unlocking the doors of life.

Next, Cordell Hooks spoke about the key of character, a

very strong key that will unlock the most difficult locks. Then, Yoquesha Terry spoke about the key of leadership, an elusive key that possesses almost magical powers. It must be used skillfully and wisely and for the good of humanity, or it will disappear from the hand that holds it.

Lastly, Meredith Brunson spoke about the key of service, which it will unlock all the doors that open the heart of mankind, making it the master key. One cannot wear it out because even after the user has laid it down, the effectiveness of it remains.

20 new members were welcomed to this club because of their excellent grades throughout all of their classes. They are all school leaders and are role models for other students throughout Elba High School.

As Ashley Carpenter called out the names of new members, Trey Martin handed certificates to them, and Maisie Thomas pinned them with the Senior Beta Pin. The new members are: Megan Anderson, Trey Belcher, Janae Carnley, Kimberly Cooks, Taylor Creel, Perry Davis, Aaron Harelson, Daniqua Horstead, Bobby Hudson, Brock Lambert, Jo Jo McBride, Jordan McBride, Lindsay McClung, Emily Miller, Jason Mitchell, Shanika Prince, Laquita Reed, Don Rhoades, Kayla Rials and Brittany Whitehead.

Shanika Pruitt accepts her certificate from Trey Martin and is pinned by Maisie Thomas.

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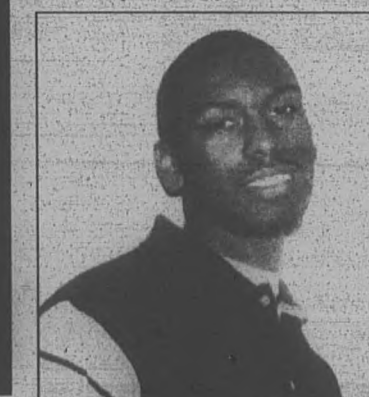
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Student Spotlight

by Tierney Starks



This week's Student Spotlight is

Quenton Miguel Caldwell.

Quenton is the 17-year-old

junior of Jeffery Starks and Crystal Caldwell. His hobbies

include spending time with family and friends and just being himself. He describes himself to be

handsome, crazy and a very cool person to hang out with.

After graduation Quenton plans to attend either Alabama A&M or Grambling State to pursue a career in business.

• The MH Strength Team will not be performing Thursday, Feb. 14, at the schools as previously announced.

• All elementary and high school students will be out of school Monday, Feb. 18, for the Presidents' Day holiday.

• A basketball game benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held Friday, Feb. 22, at 1:30 p.m., in the high school gym. There will be a \$1 donation to attend.

• Grad Ad's are on sale! Prices are as follows: \$50 for 1/8 page black and white, \$55 color; \$90 for 1/4 page black and white, \$100 color; \$110 for 1/2 page black and white, \$125 color; \$160 for full page black and white, \$180 color. These ads will remain on sale through Friday, Feb. 29. This will be the final deadline.

• Elba Hoodies and T-shirts are in and extras are available. Contact the Journalism staff. (897-2266)

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SCHOOLS

FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton High School News

Sponsor: Lori Cotney • Editor: Kristine Fitzgerald

GET TO KNOW THE TEACHERS

Name: Debbie Wilkins
Are you finding this year an easy one? Why or why not? As usual, too much has to be done. It does seem to be a good year, however.

Describe yourself in three words. Caring, fair, and trustworthy.

If you were stranded on an island, what one thing would you bring? I wish I could say Homer's writing, a laptop computer, or pictures of my family. But truthfully - Diet Coke!

What's your favorite movie? I have so many favorites, but I will still watch Steel Magnolias, Dead Poet's Society, and O Brother, Where Art Thou? over and over again.

What's your favorite book? Another unfair question for a teacher of literature.

To what kind of music do you like to listen? I love music and have an appreciation and love of some music of all types. I really do believe that listening to music can prolong life.

What is your favorite quote? "I am a quote fanatic. Ask anyone who has ever been in my room. A couple of years ago, an alumna, who is now a minister, used a quote he read in my classroom as a focus for a Baccalaureate Address. That was quite a "high" for me. If I were forced to give a favorite, however, Thoreau comes to mind - "To affect the quality of the day is the highest art."

To where would you most like to travel? Having actually traveled very little, that list would be long. Anything tropical would be good.

Have you ever had a different career? Teaching and mothering - that has been it for me and probably will always be!

If you could travel to a different time era, to what era would you travel and why? The "roaring" twenties, probably. I can just see myself in one of those shimmy dresses - ha!

If you could have a boxing match with any historical figure who would it be and why? Any of those "jerks" who fought so hard to keep women in the kitchen and feeling inferior.

If you were reincarnated as an animal, which would you like to be and why? I am no "animal person." I would come back as an amphibian - a red



Debbie Wilkins

eyed green frog! I would torture someone as much as those things torture me!

If you were a wrestler in a tag-team match for the world championship, who would you pick as your partner? My grandchildren, Slade and Jade. They are tough little characters and keep on going and going and going...

Pretend you are a sandwich. Which lunchmeat would you be? My students say I should be bologna, but I would be perfectly sliced sugar-cured ham. (I said cured, not aged!)

If you could try three careers in the future, which ones would you try? Policewoman, judge, journalist.

Who is your hero/heroine? My father has battled heart problems and won! My mother fought back from a broken back and works harder than most men! My daughter is a single mother and balances supporting them, loving them, and spending time with them. My son had a very serious condition as a very young adult and persevered. I am surrounded by strong people and am never short on heroes.

What is your favorite song of all time? I'm one of those people who says when any song comes on the radio, "Oh, that's my favorite song!" However, you can't beat that "Old Time Rock and Roll."

Fame, money, power. Which one is least important to you? Fame. In today's world, it seems to bring trouble and misery to too many people.

If you could open a business of your own what kind would it be? Something to do with cell phones - they have become a necessity, it seems.



Students of the Month



February's "Students of the Month" have been announced. Students of the Month are chosen by the faculty. Mrs. Crosby and Mr. Glass. A student from each grade is chosen every month. Students of the Month for February include: (front row) Jesse Watson - 7th grade; Taylor Jeter - 10th grade; and Erica Locklin - 11th grade; (back row) Mr. Glass - Principal; Rebel Boswell - 8th grade; Jackie Broxton - 12th grade; and Heather Hendrix - 9th grade.



GOLF TEAM READY TO TEE OFF. Members are (L-R) Coltan Bastion, Josh Roberts, John Donaldson, Steven Smith, Sawyer Whitaker, Michael Redd and Coach Brad Smith.

NETWORK Club enjoys field trip to Kelley Foods in Elba

The 7th and 8th grade members of the new NETWORK club at NBHS enjoyed a field trip Friday, Feb. 8, to Kelley Foods of Alabama in Elba.

This organization began in January, and will begin having monthly meetings. Club members will visit local businesses on a regular basis.

NETWORK represents Networking Enhances The Work Of Resourceful Kids. The club hopes to be able to partner with a variety of civic organizations and companies in the area to promote career exploration.

Members of New Brockton's NETWORK Club visited Kelley Foods of Alabama in Elba last Friday, Feb. 8.

Band Announcements:

The "Gamecock Pride" Concert Band will be performing at the Alabama Bandmaster's Association District VII contest held at Troy University.

The band includes 27 members who will be judged on the following pieces: March for King, Three English Folk Songs and Armada Overture.

This will be the concert band's first appearance at District Contest since 2005.

Any ladies that will be in the 8th-12th grade for the 2008-2009 school year and are interested in being in the "Gamecock Pride" Danceline for the fall season please see Mr. Aguilera in the bandroom. Practice dates start on Feb. 25, from 4-6 p.m. The audition date will be March 7 from 4-8 p.m.

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Book donated in memory of Katie Strunk

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, Katie Strunk's birthday, her parents and siblings donated a special book, *The Handbag*, in her memory to the New Brockton High School library. The inscription reads: *This book is presented to New Brockton High School February 5, 2008*

by Dirk, Kathy, David & Jana Beth Strunk
In Loving Memory
Of their daughter, sister & avid purse collector,
Katie Strunk
Feb. 5, 1991 - March 1, 2007



Kathy Strunk (right) presents a copy of the book "The Handbag" to New Brockton High School media specialist Lori Cotney (left). The book was donated in memory of Katie Strunk to the New Brockton High School library by the Strunk family.

FCCLA sponsoring pageant

On Friday during seventh period, FCCLA is sponsoring the 2nd annual "The Real Miss New Brockton" beauty pageant.

Students must pay \$1 to attend. One half of the proceeds will be donated to the 2008 FCCLA National Project "Feed the Children" and the other half will go toward the expenses for the FCCLA National Leadership Meeting in July.

Prize money will be awarded to the new "The Real Miss New Brockton," first runner up and second runner up.

FCCLA is selling Glamour Magic photo sessions scheduled for March 7-10, 2008.

This is not only a fun way to

raise money for FCCLA, but a great opportunity for the school and community to get professional quality photo sessions at an affordable price. The cost of the photo session is \$9.95 and includes a free 8x10 picture.

See Mrs. Taylor or an FCCLA member to purchase a certificate for a photo session.

FBLA members compete online

The week of Feb. 4-8 was the week that 36 FBLA members competed online regionally in business oriented competitions ranging from Accounting 1 to Desktop Publishing.

The results of the exams will be determined next week by the state, and the top competitors in the region will be announced. Regional winners from New Brockton High School will be traveling to Birmingham with Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Speigner for the two-day FBLA State Competition in April.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Now that school is back in at Troy it seems like one of the girls calls home about every night for some help in writing a paper or to help do research on the computer. I love to write and usually provide a little help with the English papers, but am careful because I know what the teachers liked back in the early seventies has certainly changed over the years. I guess our help may have done a little good last semester since both girls did great. However, if their grades fall this semester I will refuse to take the blame.

For what it is worth....

*** The Elba Tigers were ousted in the opening round of the area tournament last week and closed the season with a final record of 10-15. The Tigers had a mid-season surge that pushed their win total to double digits, but won only once in their final twelve games and in the area tournament were led in scoring by a freshman that had been moved up from the junior varsity. The Tigers did have a young team this season and had some pretty good players on the JV. So, maybe next season they will come together as a team and pay some of their opponents back for the whippings they suffered late in the season.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers lost its tournament opener to end the season with a 7-15 record, but unlike the boys team fought hard in post-season action and actually led Straughn for three quarters before running out of gas. The Lady Tigers had an eighth-grade point guard leading the way and several other youngsters that will be back next season, and I look for the Elba girls to make big strides and battle hard in their next area as they compete for an area crown. The girls program has proven in years past it can be a winner, and should be again real soon.

*** The season came to an end last week on the boys side for Zion Chapel, but New Brockton, Brantley and Kinston all wrapped up spots in this week's sub-region round, which means all three teams are just one win away from making a trip to the region tournament. The Rebels from up at Zion Chapel suffered through their third straight winless season and saw their losing streak reach in the seventies, but they have a young coach that will put in the hours to turn things around, and I look for the streak to end early next season. New Brockton won for the 13th time in 15 games in the opening round of the area tournament and could be a sleeper to make a trip to region, while Kinston can be a dangerous team to play when its shots are falling, and Brantley has tradition on its side and always believes it can beat any team on any given night. Over on the girls' side, Brantley reached the 29-win plateau last week in winning the area championship, and definitely has a team no one wants to run into in post-season play. The Lady Bulldogs have been on a roll throughout the season and appear primed for a return trip to Troy to compete in the Southeast Region. Zion Chapel, New Brockton and Kinston all saw their seasons end last week in area tournament play, and all three county teams struggled for much of the season. The Lady Gamecocks won only once, while the Lady Rebels posted three wins and the Lady Bulldogs won six times. A team's dedication and work ethic is not always found in its record, and all three teams deserve credit for the effort they gave throughout the season.

*** The college recruiting season ended last week with national signing day and for the Alabama fans it was a day to beam with pride and dream about the years to come. The Crimson Tide signed the #1 recruiting class in the nation according to most experts, and if Coach Saban can add a couple of more top quality classes in years to come look for the Tide to rise and move back among the elite teams in the nation. Auburn lost four of its most highly regarded verbal commitments on signing day and took a hit although the Tigers did have a top twenty class. My Auburn buddy said the Tiger fans have to try to forget about this year's recruiting woes and hope that the coaches will regroup and hit the roads next season to make certain its doesn't happen again. Auburn will always have a solid recruiting class, but with Saban at Alabama, Richt at Georgia, Meyer at Florida, Nutt at Ole Miss, Patino at Arkansas and Croom at Mississippi State, recruiting will never be easy again for any teams in the conference.

*** In closing, I went up to Eufula Friday night to referee a high school basketball game and after the game ran into Bailey Brunson. Bailey is now a policeman at Eufula, and even though the fans behaved well and never gave the game officials any problems, it was nice to know we had an 'ole Elba boy there to keep us safe.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SEASON BEGINS NEXT WEEK... Look for schedules and previews next week

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DIMITRIO TYSON (center) accepts congratulations from Elba Tiger head football coach Scott Rials after signing a college football scholarship with Jacksonville State University. Pictured at the signing are (seated, l-r) Coach Rials, Tyson, his mother Bridget Tyson (standing, l-r) Elba High principal Shane Casey and Tyson's father Junior Tyson.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

Elba Tiger trio sign college scholarships

The Elba Tiger football program continued its recent history of sending student-athletes on to the collegiate ranks last week as three members of the 2007 Tigers signed college football scholarships.

The trio signed in ceremonies on Wednesday morning at the Media Center at Elba High School, and was joined at the event by coaches, school officials, family members and friends.

Dimitrio Tyson, a 6-2, 255-pound, defensive-end, signed with Jacksonville State University. The Tiger standout recorded 97 tackles and 4 quarter-back sacks during his senior season, and was a three-year starter for Elba's Coach Scott Rials. Tyson, who also received scholarship offers from Harding University, the University of North Alabama and Stillman College, stated, "I chose Jacksonville because I liked the stadium, the facilities and the excitement in the program. The school has tremendous support from its fans, and I felt like it was the right place for me to continue my career and get an education."

Trey Martin, a 6-1, 195-pound, quarterback, signed at the ceremony with Harding University of Searcy, Arkansas. Martin completed 138 passes in 234 attempts last season for 2,233 yards and 18 touchdowns. "I decided to attend Harding because of the coaching staff and the feeling I had about its genuine caring for its athletes," said Martin, who also received offers from Samford and the University of North Alabama. "Harding runs out of an offense similar to the one we ran here at Elba, and that made it a comfortable fit."

Martin McCormick, the third member of the Tiger trio to sign last week, will join Martin at Harding University. A 6-3, 300-pound offensive-defensive lineman, was a three-year starter for the Tigers and played a major role in the Tigers' success from his spot on the offensive line. "The coaching staff at Harding made me feel at home and really showed how it cares for its athletes," said McCormick, who was also recruited by West Alabama and the University of North Alabama. "I know life can be hard for a lineman, especially at this college level. However, I feel like Harding will give me the chance to be a part of the program and that is all I can ask for."

"These three young men have played a huge role in the success of our football program over the past three years and I am convinced they will all continue to excel in college," said Elba's Coach Scott Rials. "The young men worked hard in the off-season program to be the best they could be, and should serve proof to the young men in our program that if they are willing to work hard and dedicate themselves to excellence they can also move on and play college football."

Youth baseball and softball registration underway in Elba

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will conduct registration for youth baseball and softball from Monday, February 11 through Friday, February 22. Registration fees are \$25 per child with a \$50 maximum fee for families with more than two registrants, and registration forms will be passed out at the Elba Elementary School, Elba High School and Men's softball tourney in Enterprise

There will be a men's softball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Enterprise Sports Complex. The entry fee is \$135 per team and each team must provide its own regulation soft-



Lynn Carnley took this eight point while hunting on her property January 22nd.



TREY MARTIN (center) joined the football program at Harding University last week on national signing day. Pictured at the signing are (seated, l-r) Elba Tiger head football coach Scott Rials, Martin, his father Doug Martin, Jr. (standing, l-r) Elba High principal Shane Casey, Martin's mother Betsy Martin and brother Griffin Martin.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



MARTIN MCCORMICK (center) joined the football program at Harding University last week when he signed a scholarship during ceremonies at Elba High School. Pictured at the signing are (seated, l-r) Elba High head football coach Scott Rials, McCormick, his mother Melissa McCormick (standing, l-r) Elba High principal Shane Casey, McCormick's grandfather Doug Martin, Sr., and grandmother Elaine Martin.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



DEXTER DANIELS with family members, Head Coach David Lowery, and Principal Tony Stallworth as Dexter signs with Vanderbilt University. Pictured are: Standing L to R: Rev. Windell Williams, Robert Daniels, Maria Williams, Carl Williams, Coach David Lowery, Tony Stallworth - Seated L to R: John Wright, Elaine Daniels (Dexter's mother), Dexter, and Eddie Callaway (Dexter's father).

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SPORTS

Results from.... THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Boys Basketball

Elba Tigers make early exit after 72-39 defeat

The Elba Tigers made an early exit from the area tournament as they were eliminated in the opening round Friday night with a 72-39 loss to Straughn. The (10-14) Tigers were led by freshman Chance Goosby with 13 points, while (21-5) Straughn was led by Trenton and Trevor Driver with 17 points, apiece. Charles Christopher added 14 points for Straughn in the win.

Kinston Bulldogs bury Zion Chapel Rebels 79-39

The Kinston Bulldogs opened area tournament action Friday night with a solid 79-39 win over the Zion Chapel Rebels. Matt Whigham scored 26 points to spark the Bulldogs, while A.J. Johnson added 18 points, Hunter Anderson scored 11 and Tim Donaldson added 10. Chase Perkins led the winless Rebels with 6 points.

New Brockton advances with 62-42 win over Samson

The New Brockton Gamecocks continued their late season surge Friday night with a 62-42 win over the Samson Tigers. Shambay Johnson scored 16 points to lead the Gamecocks to their 13th win in their last 15 games, while Justin Flowers added 14, Dadrion Johnson scored 11 and Courtney Foster added 10. Brandon Carter led Samson with 15 points.

Brantley Bulldogs slip past Pleasant Home 44-42

The Brantley Bulldogs rallied from a 10-point fourth quarter deficit to slip past the Pleasant Home Eagles 44-42 Friday night in the opening round of area play. The Bulldogs trailed 25-11 at the half and 36-26 heading into the final stanza, but used an aggressive pressing defense to rally and post the win. Dexter Daniels scored 10 points and Westley Spivey added 9 to lead Brantley, while Josh Dozier led Pleasant Home with 19 points.

Girls Basketball

Elba Lady Tigers ousted by Straughn 45-36

The Elba Lady Tigers saw their bid to pull off a major upset fall one-quarter short Thursday night as they saw their season end with a 45-36 loss to Straughn. The Lady Tigers surprised Straughn early and pulled out to a 32-25 lead heading into the fourth quarter, but watched as Straughn rallied late and used a 20-4 run in the final stanza to pull out the win. Kayla Teal scored 12 points and Andrea Sport added 10 to lead Straughn, which advanced to the area finals with the win. Elba closed out its season with a 7-15 record.

New Brockton Lady Gamecocks ripped 94-9

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks saw a long season finally come to an end Thursday night with a lopsided 94-9 loss to Barbour County. The (1-22) Lady Gamecocks fell behind early in the area tournament opener and never had a chance as Barbour County rolled to the big win. Jellisa Whigham scored 22 points to lead Barbour County, while Nicole Brooks added 14 and Jackita George, Keyondria Massey and Jackie Gray all scored 11.

Kinston Lady Bulldogs edged out by Arton 37-31

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs saw their upset bid fall six points short Thursday night as they were eliminated from the area tournament after a 37-31 loss to the Arton Lady Cats. The Lady Bulldogs appeared to be on the verge of pulling off the shocker as they opened up a 26-21 lead late in the third quarter. However, Kinston failed to score for the next seven minutes and watched as Arton rallied to take the win. Casey Dean and Christie Whigham both scored 7 points to lead (6-16) Kinston, while Deanna Manning added 6. Breanna Daniels scored 13 points to lead Arton.

Zion Chapel Lady Rebels roughed up at area 50-19

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels closed their season with a 3-16 record after being ousted from the area tournament in a 50-19 loss to Providence Christian. The Lady Rebels trailed 40-5 at the half and never recovered as they fell to the Lady Eagles for the third time this season. Haley Ellis scored 6 points to lead Zion Chapel, while Anna Wilson added 4. Madison Longchamp scored 20 points to lead (15-2) Providence, while Andrea Charlton added 10 points and 7 assists and Katie Dowd added 10 points and pulled down 9 rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs flatten Florala for area crown 59-32

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs pushed their record to 29-1 Saturday night with a big 59-32 win over the Florala Lady Wildcats, in the finals of the area tournament. Eisha Person scored 12 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Toronda Randall added 11 points and pulled down 17 rebounds and Helen Walker scored 10 points. Deandra Smith led Florala with 10 points. Brantley will host Arton tonight (Thursday) in sub-region competition.



Elba Tiger Trey Belcher (24) drives past a Straughn defender in recent high school basketball action. The Tigers closed their season last week with a 72-39 loss to Straughn in the opening round of the area tournament.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



Zion Chapel basketball coach Alan Maness watches as the Rebels fall to Kinston in the opening round of the area tournament last week in Kinston. The loss ended the season for the Rebels and marked the third straight winless season at Zion Chapel.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

High School ROUND BALL ROUNDUP

New Brockton closes regular season with 61-47 win over New Brockton

The New Brockton Gamecocks closed out the regular season on a winning note last Tuesday night with a 61-47 win over the Arton Purple Cats. The Gamecocks, which upped their record to 15-11 with the road win, were led by Dadrion Johnson with 23 points and Shambay Johnson with 14 points. Tevin McNair and Jamie Davis both added 9 points for the Gamecocks, while James Edmonds led Arton with 20 points.

Kinston Bulldogs caged by Straughn Tigers in regular season finale 77-39

The Kinston Bulldogs closed their regular season with an 8-13 record last Monday night after falling to the Straughn Tigers 77-39, in Kinston. Alex Johnson scored 13 points to lead the Bulldogs, while Mitchell Myers scored 21 points and Bilyon Jones added 17 to pace the (20-5) Tigers.

Atlanta POPS
The Atlanta Pops Orchestra, Atlanta's best musicians, will present "An Adventure in Music" on February 19, 2008. A Night at the Movies showcases favorite tunes from the movies that will delight the audience. Sample selections include *Gone with the Wind*, *An American in Paris*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *James Bond Medley*, *West Side Story*, *The Sting* and *Star Wars*. John Head brings a 40-year, highly diversified musical career to his role as Music Director and Conductor of the Pops.

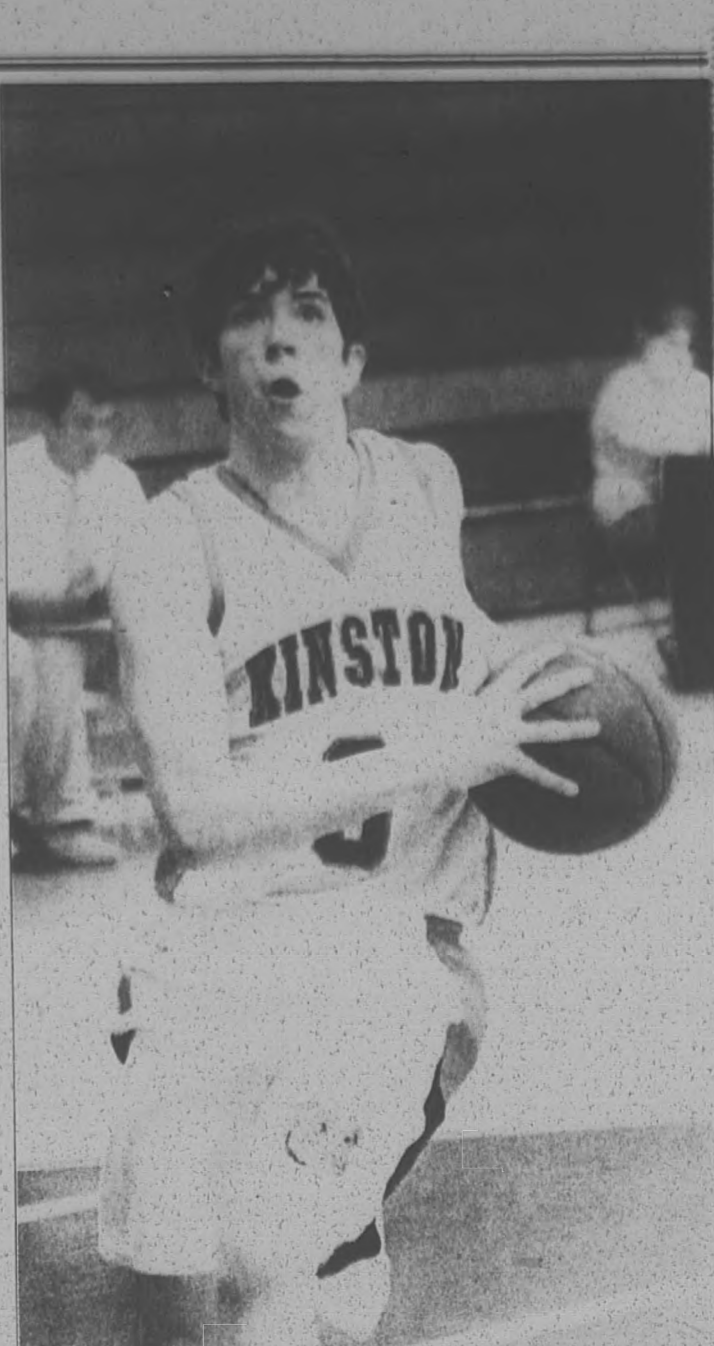
February 19, 2008 • 7:30 pm • Elba High School
Presented by Coffee County Arts Alliance and Martin-Colley Drugs
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NEW BROCKTON • New Brockton Florist (894-6747)

This performance is made possible in part by a grant from The Alabama State Council on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts. www.coffeecountyartsalliance.com



Kinston Bulldog A.J. Johnson (3) drives to the basket for an easy two-pointer in action last week at the area tournament. The Bulldogs advanced to the area finals with a big 79-39 win over Zion Chapel.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



Brantley Lady Bulldog Toronda Randall (32) gets inside to score in area tournament action last week against Florala. The Lady Bulldogs defeated the Lady Wildcats 59-32 to win the tournament and Randall was named the MVP after leading Brantley to the title.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



BRANTLEY LADY BULLDOGS... The Brantley Lady Bulldogs show off the championship trophy after winning the area tournament last week. The Lady Bulldogs improved their record to 29-1 in winning the tournament and will host Arton Thursday night in sub-region action.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

Copy Service available at The Elba Clipper!

Coffee County Board of Education holds routine meeting

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held a brief but productive meeting Thursday evening, Feb. 7, as Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram opened the meeting with good news.

Dr. Ingram said the board has "cause to celebrate" as she announced all bonded indebtedness has been paid off. She said this mostly was from 1990 renovations.

Board vice chairman Danny Jernigan commended those, especially Dr. Ingram, that have worked so hard to help get the school system physically sound to allow for such an announcement.

Board members approved an out-of-state travel request from instructor Dennis Busby to take a group of seniors from Kinston High School to a welding competition in Florida later this month.

Also during the meeting, Dr. Ingram presented a "draft" copy of the proposed school calendar for the 2008-09 school term. She said a copy of the draft has been posted on the school system's website and sent to the schools. She said she certainly will accept any comments regarding the calendar before the board approves it during an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Ingram did note the existence of a bill in the Legislature that if passed will play havoc with the calendar. According to Dr. Ingram, the bill if passed would not allow school to begin until around Aug. 18 and the school year would have to be complete around May 22nd.

Dr. Ingram suggested board

members contact local legislators to express their displeasure in the bill and ask them to vote against it.

"Our calendar works for our community," she said. Dr. Ingram said the proposed bill would force the school system to shorten several breaks currently included in the school calendar.

Jernigan added that another thing the proposed bill will do is take control away from the local level in regards to setting the school calendar. He said he believes control of the school calendar should remain at the local level.

The proposed 2008-09 calendar presented by Dr. Ingram has students' first day of school set for Wednesday, Aug. 6, while their last day will be Thursday, May 28, 2009.

Board members approved several personnel matters recommended by Dr. Ingram during last Thursday evening's meeting. These matters included:

Regional peanut production meetings underway

The 2008 Alabama Regional Peanut production meetings, which began Jan. 1, will continue with five more meetings scheduled throughout the state's peanut-producing areas.

Scheduled speakers include: Randy Griggs of the Alabama Peanut Producers Association on the farm bill and industry issues; Marshall Lamb and Wilson Faircloth of the National Peanut Research Laboratory on marketing and economics; and Kris Balkcom, Austin Hagan and Ron Weeks of Auburn University's Wiregrass Research and Extension Center on production updates and issues.

For more information about the production meetings, contact your nearest county Extension system.

Alabama peanut producers will also be gathering at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds in Dothan on Thursday, Feb. 7, as the third annual Alabama-Florida Peanut Trade Show opens.

Outdoor agricultural exhibits, equipment demonstrations, a "biodiesel" classroom on wheels and more will be featured.

For more information on the trade show, contact Teresa Wilson at (334) 792-6482.

ed: Certified

• Approve catastrophic leave for Tracy Whittaker, library media specialist at New Brockton Elementary School

• Accept the resignation of Shasta Arnett as cheerleader sponsor at Zion Chapel School

• Employ Andrea Maness as cheerleader sponsor at Zion Chapel School

• Approve catastrophic leave for Renee Flowers, lunchroom worker at New Brockton

• Approve the resignation of Bertie Thomas, LPN at New Brockton Elementary School

• Employ Linda Black as LPN at New Brockton Elementary School

• Employ Wendy Hardy as part-time custodian at Zion Chapel School

The next regular scheduled meeting for the Coffee County Board of Education will be Thursday, March 6.

Two weeks after the U.S. Highway 84 bypass opened in New Brockton, a two-vehicle wreck Friday afternoon, Feb. 15, claimed the life of one of the town's residents.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. last Friday, one person was fatally injured and another person was injured after two vehicles collided on U.S. Hwy. 84 (bypass) in New Brockton.

According to information released from the Dothan Post of the Alabama Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Division, Fairy Lorne Maddox, age 73, of New Brockton died as a result of injuries sustained in the accident. She was driving a 1991 Toyota Corolla.

Maddox was transported to Flowers Hospital in Dothan where she reportedly died a short time later. Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 18, at an Enterprise funeral home.

"We're going to miss her," New Brockton Mayor Charles Cole said this week in regards to Maddox. "She was a good person."

The mayor also fondly recalled her love for cooking.

Also injured in Friday's accident was Georgia Christos Zachos, age 50, of Enterprise, the driver of the 1997 Mercury Mountaineer that collided with

Some damage reported

Storms move through area Sunday, Feb. 17th

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announce March
wedding plans



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Local Altrusa Club
inducts new
members



INSIDE

Kinston students
raise over \$3,000
through 'Hoops for
Hearts'



The Elba Clipper

Volume 111, Number 37

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 21, 2008

1 Section, 14 Pages

First fatality recorded on recently opened Hwy. 84 bypass in New Brockton

by Linda Hodge, Editor

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Some damage reported

Storms move through area Sunday, Feb. 17th

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Stormy weather moved through the area Sunday afternoon, Feb. 17, creating several anxious moments for residents of Coffee County as more than one tornado warning was issued.

According to Coffee County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) director John Tallas, his office sounded the all-county sirens (outdoor warning sirens) once Sunday afternoon after the county was placed under a tornado warning. A short time later, Tallas said he contacted the Elba Police Department asking them to sound the western fleet of sirens because the western and northern portions of the county were again vulnerable due to the storm's track and intensity.

Tallas said it is important to remind residents the sirens are outdoor warning sirens and not intended to warn people inside their homes or businesses. He said residents should have a

Please See STORMS, Page 14

Maddox's vehicle. Zachos was transported to Enterprise Medical Center for treatment.

Reports indicate Maddox was traveling in the wrong direction on the 4-lane road when the accident occurred approximately 7 miles east of Elba.

Mayor Cole said he spoke with officials from the Alabama Department of Transportation following this accident, and they expressed concern.

"I would like to caution (motorists) again to slow down, observe the signs and watch out for other drivers," said Cole.

The mayor especially stressed paying attention to the road signs. He said local officials are doing everything they can in regards to patrolling the area to try and keep motorists in check.

However, he recognizes it also will take extra precaution from

motorists as all become familiar with the new roadway.

Cole said last Friday's fatal accident only heightens concern from officials as they work to urge motorists to be more cautious as they travel around the new bypass.

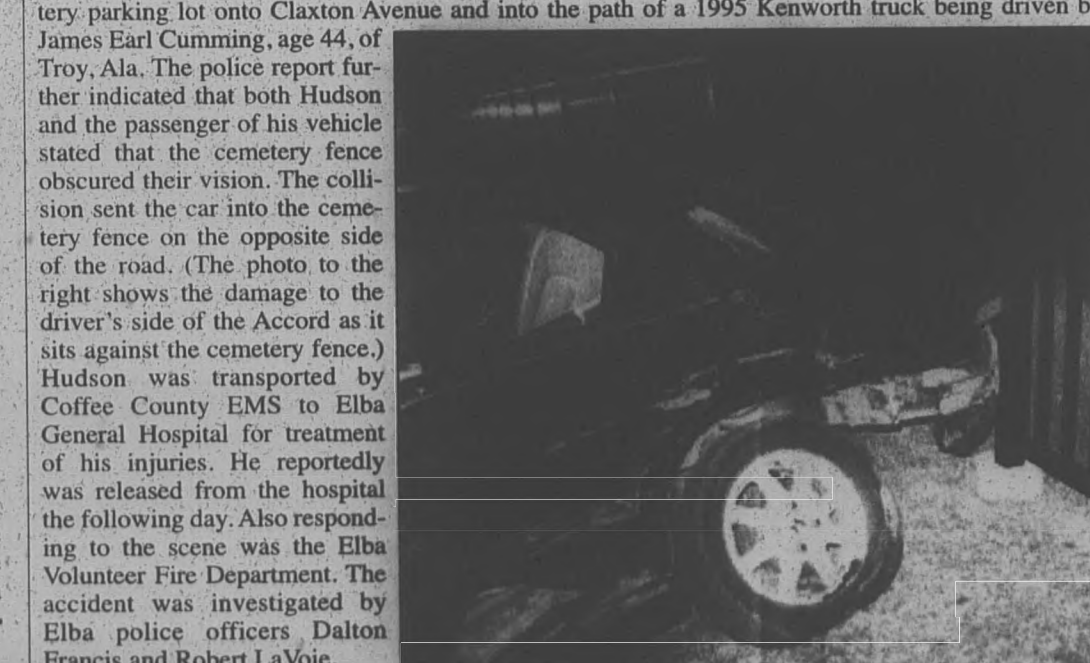
"It can be confusing, especially for young people and the elderly," he said.

On Tuesday morning of this week, Mayor Cole said he had made yet another phone call to DOT officials asking about additional signage for the bypass. In particular, he was concerned about a divided-highway sign for motorists as they enter the bypass, especially traveling east from Elba. He also noted the lengthy section of road traveling west where the bypass begins but the highway is not divided at this point.

Valentine's night wreck in Elba sends one to the hospital



EMERGENCY PERSONNEL RESPONDED Thursday evening, Feb. 14, at approximately 6:36 p.m., to the scene of a two-vehicle accident on Claxton Avenue in Elba at the Evergreen Cemetery. Upon arrival, officials discovered a log truck had collided with a small car. According to police, Bobby Randall Hudson, age 18, of Elba was driving a 2002 Honda Accord when he exited the cemetery parking lot onto Claxton Avenue and into the path of a 1995 Kenworth truck being driven by James Earl Cumming, age 44, of Troy, Ala. The police report further indicated that both Hudson and the passenger of his vehicle stated that the cemetery fence obscured their vision. The collision sent the car into the cemetery fence on the opposite side of the road. (The photo to the right shows the damage to the driver's side of the Accord as it sits against the cemetery fence.) Hudson was transported by Coffee County EMS to Elba General Hospital for treatment of his injuries. He reportedly was released from the hospital the following day. Also responding to the scene was the Elba Volunteer Fire Department. The accident was investigated by Elba police officers Dalton Francis and Robert LaVoie.



NEW RESTAURANT OPENS...Elba's newest eatery, The Table, opened recently in a location on the 203 Bypass next door to the Dollar General. The Table is co-owned by mother and daughter, Henri and Shannon Allen and is open daily. The restaurant's menu offers a variety of choices. The Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed The Table to business Friday afternoon, Feb. 8, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Those in attendance included (left to right): Ryan Tutor, Aaron Drewery, Junior Miss Elba Cortlin Lee, Shane Allen holding Nathan Allen, Eddie Vaughan, Summer Stricklin, Jencie Allen, Jason Hall, Tesha Lee, Shyanne Allen, Junior Stanford, Shannon Allen - owner, Little Miss Elba Kayla Seay, L.M. Burch, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Barry Giles, Henri Allen - owner, Future Little Miss Elba Makyla Polk, Rene Lambert, Terry Allen, Britany Layton, Doris Matthews, Call Crook, Becky Thompson, Herby McCall and Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce.



Alabama State Troopers investigate the scene of a fatal accident last Friday, Feb. 15, on the U.S. Highway 84 bypass in New Brockton. The two-vehicle accident occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Audit reports reveal missing funds from Coffee County jail account

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Two separate audits released last week by the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts revealed missing funds for the Inmates' Money on Deposit Fund for the Coffee County Jail.

In a statement released last Thursday, Feb. 14, Coffee County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy R.W. Whitworth said shortly after taking office on Jan. 16, 2007, Sheriff Dave Sutton and his staff found discrepancies in jail bank accounts. At that time, the department requested an audit by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

Two audits were filed Friday, Feb. 15. The first audit involved the period from Oct. 1, 2004, Jan. 15, 2007. The second audit involved the period from Jan. 16, 2007 - Aug. 31, 2007.

The report submitted by Audra Lynn Otto, examiner of public accounts, to Ronald L. Jones, chief examiner, on the Office of Sheriff, Coffee County, Alabama for the period of Oct. 1, 2004 - Jan. 15, 2007 came under the administration of Sheriff Benjamin M. Moates.

Among the findings was that funds received by the Office of Sheriff were not deposited timely and intact. Otto noted matters including:

• The jail bookkeeper was found to have funds received in the office consisting of cash, checks and money orders, in a box at her home totaling \$30,858.45. The report said these funds were deposited into

the official bank account on Jan. 25, 2007.

• Deposits for the Inmates' Money on Deposit Fund, the Work Release Fund, and the Prisoners' Money on Deposit Fund were not deposited timely and intact.

• Pistol permit receipts and extradition reimbursements were not deposited timely.

• Receipts totaling \$36,811.60 for the Inmates' Money on Deposit Fund were not deposited into the official bank account.

The audit report indicated \$36,811.60 has been directly charged to Debra Williams, jail bookkeeper during the time period of the audit. Furthermore, the report said official demand was made on Williams to pay the charge, but she has not done so.

Williams also did not appear at a hearing before the chief examiner to show just cause why the charge should be relieved. The report has been turned over to the District Attorney's office for collection.

Another notable finding in this audit report was that an employee of the sheriff's department resigned and stated he had lost a weapon assigned to him. The report indicated the department did not request reimbursement or file a police report for the missing weapon. Otto recommended that procedures should be in place to account for all assigned equipment.

The second audit report on the Office of Sheriff for the period of Jan. 16, 2007-Aug. 31, 2007 came under the administration of Sheriff David Terry Sutton Sr.

Also submitted by Otto, this report found:

• deposits for the Inmates' Money on Deposit Fund, the Work Release Fund, and the Prisoners' Money on Deposit Fund were not deposited timely and intact.

• receipts totaling \$2,947.11 for the Inmates' Money on Deposit Fund were not deposited into the official bank account.

The missing funds of \$2,947.11 again were directly charged to jail bookkeeper Debra Williams, and the report was turned over to the District Attorney's office for collection since the charge remains due and unpaid.

In his statement last week, Whitworth said while the audit was being conducted, the bookkeeper (Williams) resigned her position at the Coffee County Jail. He said all bank accounts have now been transferred to an accounting clerk at the sheriff's office and new controls and procedures have been put in place to ensure that the office is properly accounting for public funds.

Area Happenings

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER THE Future Little Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Zion Chapel pageants is this Friday, Feb. 22. Please refer to the pageant registration packet for details. The pageants will be held Saturday, March 29, at the Zion Chapel Auditorium. For more information or to get a registration packet, call 897-2287.

THE ELBA LIONS CLUB will hold the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 1, from 6-10 a.m. in the Elba Senior Citizens building. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE SOUTHEAST ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Coffee County Farm Center. Anyone interested in the honeybee is welcome to attend. For more information call Al Lippins at 334-566-7340 or Jerry Whittaker at 334-894-2077.

FIRST CHOICE HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM will be held Saturday, March 8, from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Covenant Community Church in Elba. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register call 897-0650.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is planning a Legislative Breakfast for Friday, March 21. For more information, contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce at 897-3125.

60th Anniversary Open House

Tuesday, February 19

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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